

# *Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat* *Incorporated*

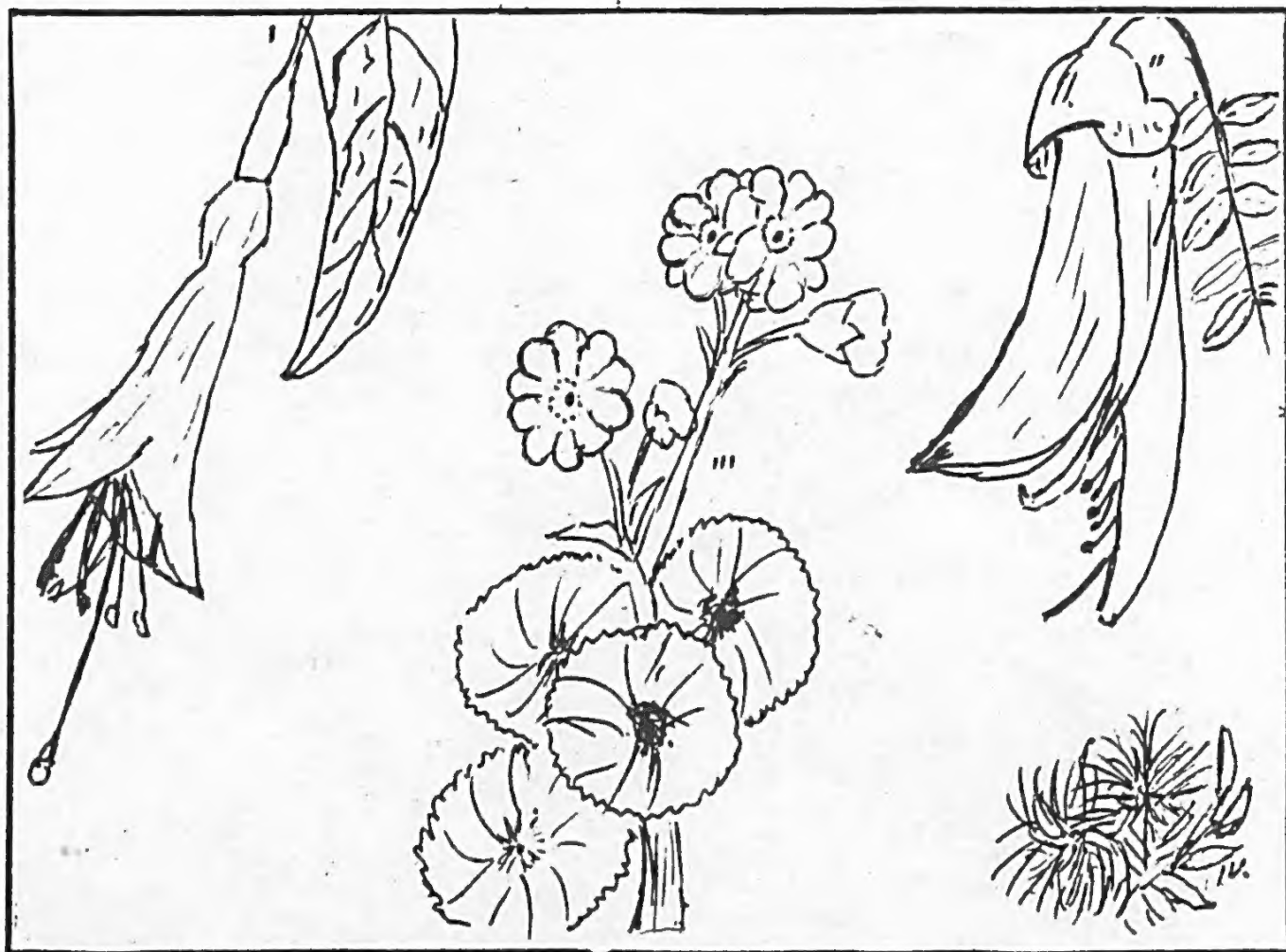
## EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting : Sept. 1. Mr. T. Burger: New Zealand Flora  
and its relationship to Australia.

Meeting : Oct. 6. Mr. G. Binns: Birds and Wetlands

Excursion : Sep. 3. Porcupine Ridge - P. and W. Murphy

Excursion : Oct. 8. Stawell Heathlands - J. Pickford



New Zealand Flora see page 2

President;	Dr.F.Harrap	Ph. 053 301651
Vice Pres.	Miss H.Burgess	312210
Secretary:	Mr.G.Binns	332282
Treasurer:	Mrs.F.Williamson	327631
Editor:	Mr.A.Barlow	413378

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.  
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY\*





- 2 KOWHAI *Sophora microphylla*  
3 *Ranunculus lyallii*  
4 POHUTUKANA *Metrosideros excelsa*
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FIELD REPORTS - August Meeting.

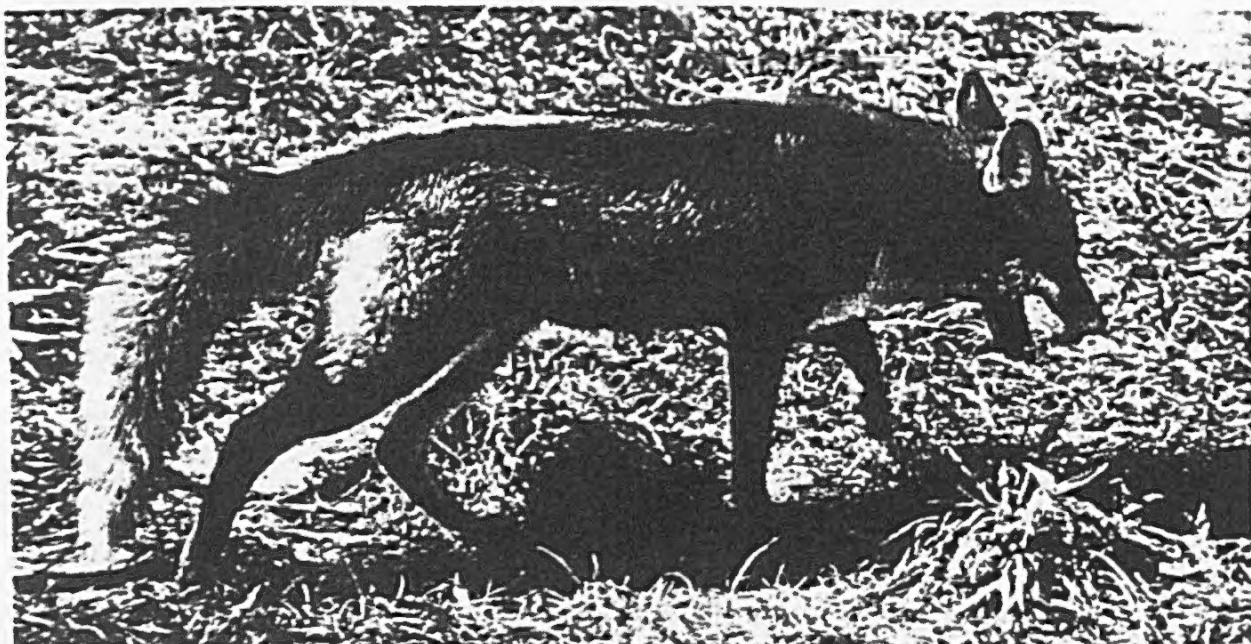
- H. Hooper Reported exploration of Skipton Railway reserve near Pittong. Revealed good fencing and strong growth of natural flora in reserve.
- F. Harrap Black Falcon over Bunninyong; Darters at Cairn Curran Reservoir; Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos dropping pine cones at Mt Helen.
- T. Barlow Crimson Rosella with one foot missing visits house at Mt Helen, manages very well on one foot and stump.
- A. Barlow Reported on Campout at Pt Campbell. Three species of Albatross observed from cliffs (Yellow Nosed, Shy, Black Brow Browed); Also Gannets and Caspian Tern.  
Four Southern Right Whales and two Calves at Legans Beach, Warrnambool.
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VICTORIAN WETLANDS TRUST.

Anyone interested in wetlands may apply to join this Trust which was formed in 1988 to promote better wetland management and conservation.

A brochure containing objective and membership details is available.

"Helping Victorians Care for Their Wetlands"



and set up by Ken Bauska. We are grateful to Ken for his generous contribution of time and expertise.

It is planned to plant more seedlings during the spring. Members are invited to participate with planting and weed control.

### A.B.C.-Australian Bird Count.

The R.A.O.U. is conducting the A.B.C. as a complement to the Bird Atlas project, over 5 years, at least.

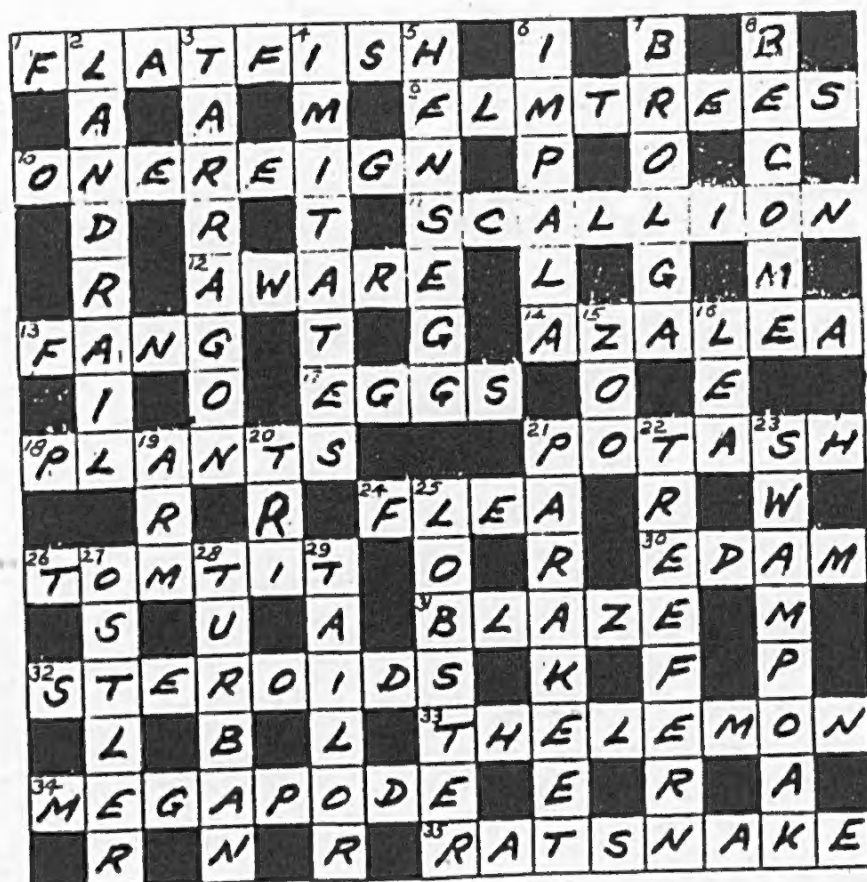
Observers, who wish to be involved, are asked to count birds regularly in defined areas, using identical procedures on each visit.

The survey site may be in your local area where vegetation is uniform and of stable tenure.

Minimum number of surveys per site is two in Spring/Summer and two in Autumn/Winter.

If any members are interested in contributing to this national scheme and becoming a CABBIE? (counter of Australian Birds), discuss it with Greg.

Answer to crossword no 14.









## GREVILLEAS

Neil Marriot was our guest speaker at the Aug. meeting; Neil is a nurseryman from just North of Deep Lead, N.W. of Stawell.

Neil's initial interest was in birds and his parents, both school teachers, encouraged this interest with their garden at Frankston.

Honeyeaters particularly attracted young Neil and he was encouraged to plant a range of Grevilleas that would flower throughout the year.

He got in touch with Austroflora and interstate collecting cuttings of Grevillea species; this material he shared with Austroflora. He also studied the distribution of Grevillea species at the Victorian Herbarium. He too became a teacher and his interests in the Grevilleas lead him to take six months long service leave studying the family in Western Australia where the lions share of the areas 260 Grevillea species occur. This - his first major collecting expedition - was in 1981 and came soon after he and a friend decided to produce a book on the Grevilleas on this Western Australian journey. He saw 112 species, 15 of which had then still be named.

The work on the book still continues though the manuscript is in the final checking stages before publication; 5 species have still to be named officially and this is delaying completion of the work. It is to go to the publishers at the end of the year.

In recent years, the nursery has been established - shed and Neil has given up teaching to devote his efforts to collecting and propagating native plants full time.

Neil spent some time during his talk on the naming of the Grevilleas and the opposing philosophies of plant taxonomy. He contended that Grevillea species are being lost or are vulnerable because of some taxonomists who wish to lump together as a single species, various quite dissimilar plant types.



He illustrated his talk with a wide range of *Grevillea* species and concluded with some slides of different areas in the nursery, where he makes considerable use of white river sand as a mulch.

Some of the species shown were-

- G. alpina*                      A number of the many different forms - like most *Grevillea*s they require a well drained sunny site
- G. aquifolium*                Holly like leaves and red or green - red toothbrush flowers.
- G. beedliana*
- G. depauperata*
- G. driandoides*
- G. nana*                      An excellent prostrate form
- G. parviflora*                A spreading shrub with neat leaves and small pink/white flowers (one form is from Kangaroo Island)
- G. willisii*                  Named after Jim Willis - attractive grey leaves, cream brushes

Of the hybrids, *G. superba* well merited its name. It flowers virtually all the year and is very attractive to birds.

Note: The nursery is about 3km N. of Deep Lead on the Glenorchy Road and is open to the public on Friday Saturday and Sunday.

#### ANCHOR PLANT PROJECT

Inspection of the seedlings planted out within the Lal Lal enclosure has revealed that all twenty plants are flourishing in undisturbed conditions, in spite of the prevailing wet and bleak weather. New growth is evident on all plants.

The report to the Australian Bicentennial Authority, required by July 31, has been forwarded together with the audited statement of the finances involved.

In order to provide information on the project to the public a portable display board has been purchased and will be prepared with an illustrated description of the development of the project.

This will be displayed in various public spaces in the region. The display unit has been designed





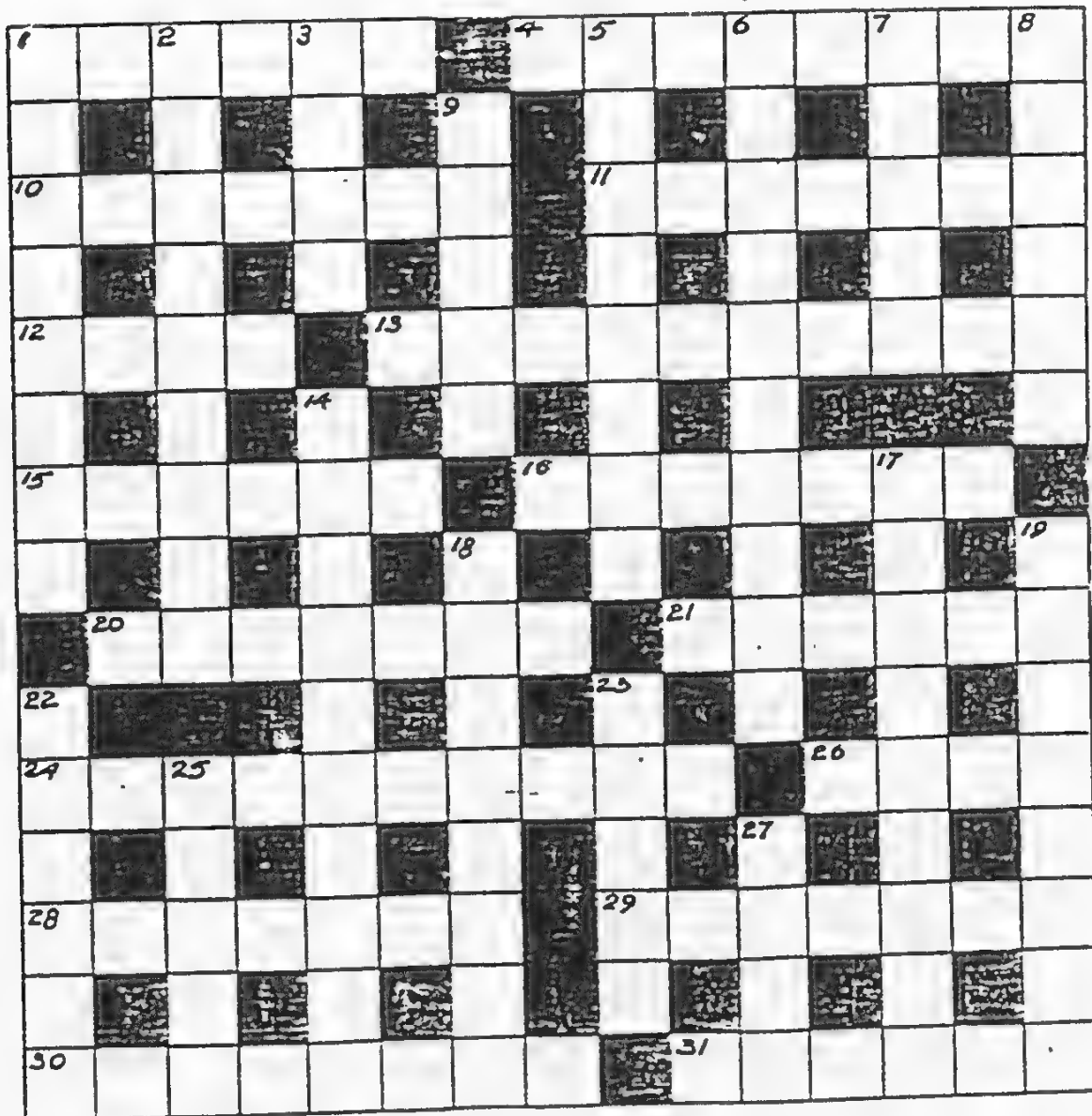
# Natural History Crossword by Tantalus No. 5

## Across

- 1 Firm for horses? (6)    4 Felines on board! (5,4)    10 Mercury is --  
 (1,6)    11 Chemical causing solution (7)    12 Parasitic insects (4)    13 Echidna  
 and Platypus are (10)    15 Loved by bees (6)    16 Dilute acetic acid (7)  
 18 Tree, house or hedge? (7)    21 Scythrops Novaehollandiae has one in its  
 bill (6)    24 These may run deep (4,6)    26 Underwater hazard (4)    28 Limbs  
 may be -- --- (2,5)    29 Duck (Dafila acuta) (7)    30 Shark (Alopius vulpinus) (5)  
 31 A pendulum does (6)

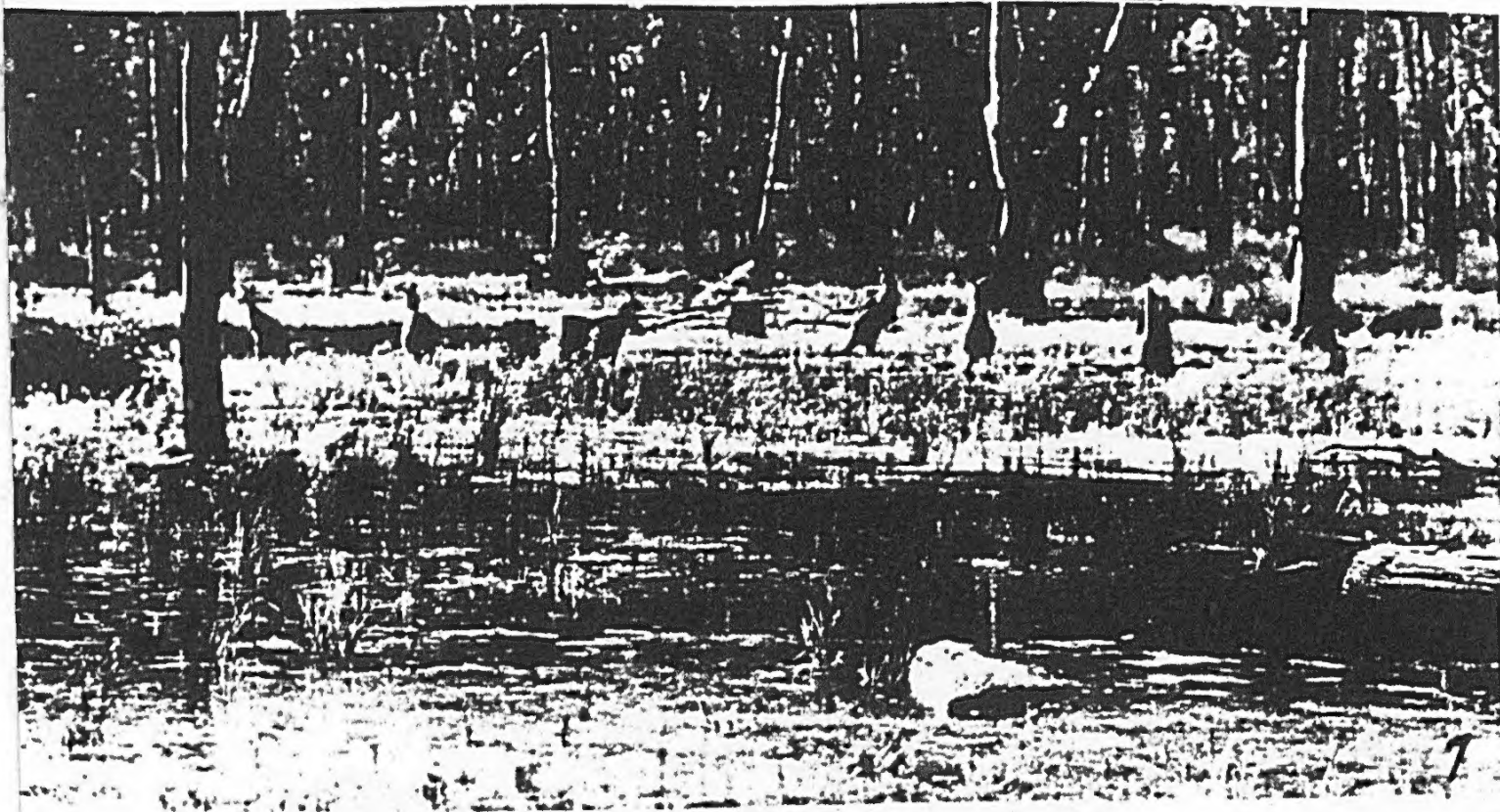
## Down

- 1 Introduced avian pest (7)    2 Port Lincoln Parrot has this (1,5,3)    3 Fish  
 in 1d (4)    5 Dinosaurs were pre this (8)    6 White ursine (5,4)    7 Top  
 stuff! (5)    8 Litmus is used -- ---- acidity (2,4)    9 Not a canter or a  
 gallop (1,4)    14 Genus Malurus (5,5)    17 Highly uplifted land (1,8)    18  
 Mustard has it. (3,5)    19 Shore & ocean birds (3,5)    22 The Pittas have  
 - ---- tail (1,5)    23 Wine producer (5)    25 Playful water mammal (5)    27  
 Partly frozen precipitate. (4)



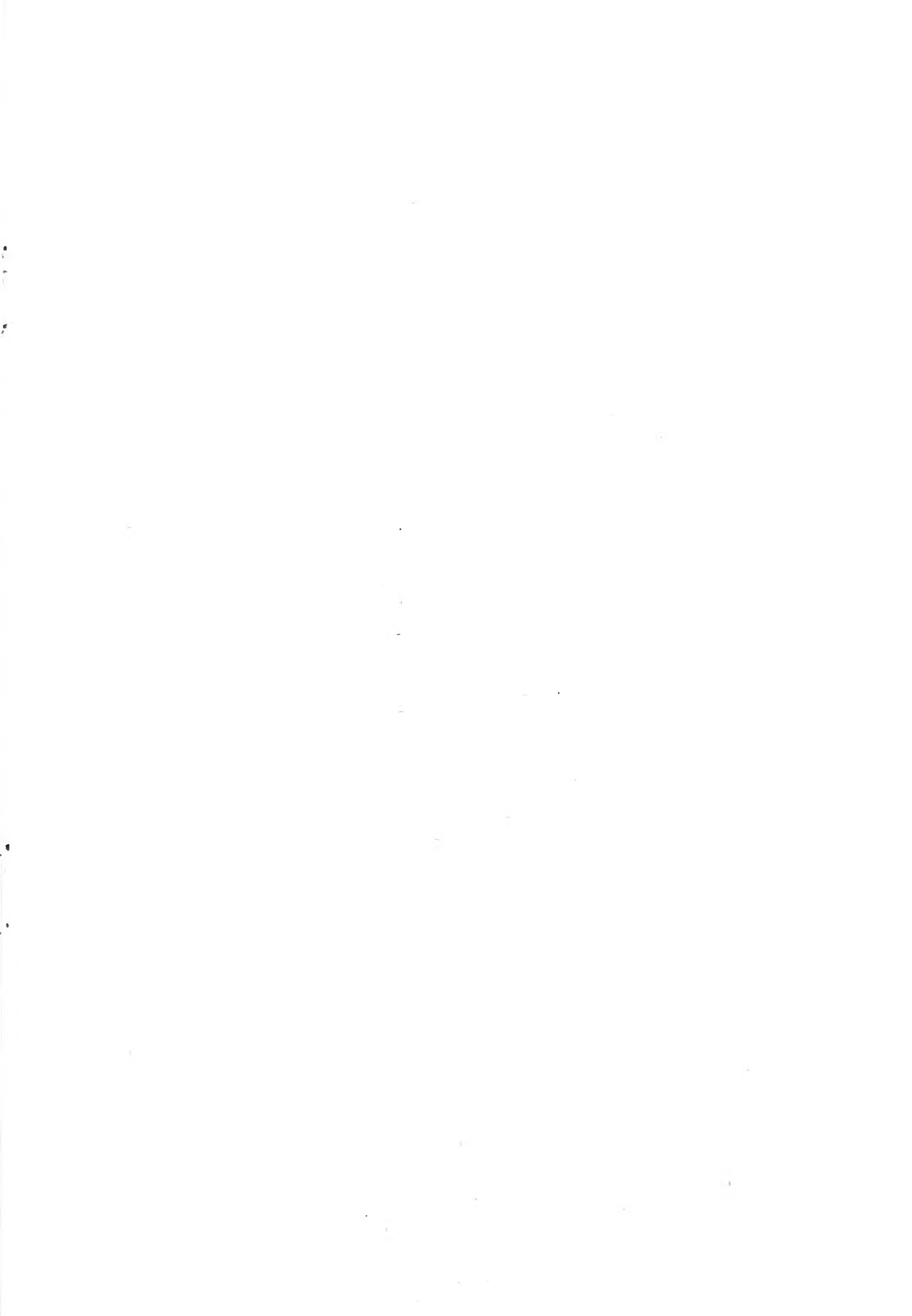
For Your Diary.

- September 3 (Sunday) Excursion to Porcupine Ridge. Crockers Corner at 9.30am. Full Day outing.
- September 4 Monday. Maryborough F.N.C. Clubrooms, Rifle Range, Dundas Rd. Speaker: Allison Teese L.C.C. Councillor - Mallee Review - "illustrated" 7.30 pm
- Sept. 8 - 10 Early Spring W.V.F.N.C.A. "Campout", Castlemaine. Full details of venues and excursions available on printed sheets. N.B. Sunday lunch orders (\$2.00) required by Saturday Sep.2. Many well planned excursions listed.
- Sept. 23 - 24 Angair Wildflower Show. Anglesea HallMcMillan St. 10am - 5.30pm also excursions to Wildflower locations.
- October 8 Club excursion to Stawell Heathlands. with Jim Pickford.
- October 14 Excursion with Castlemaine F.N.C., Campbelltown Sandon area.
- Oct. 20 - 22 Spring W.V.F.N.C.A. "Campout", at Adekate Camp, Creswick. Camp bookings by October 1 (10 Dollar Dep.) Full details are already available, with booking forms.
- November 14 Excursion with Geelong F.N.C., Enfield Forest.









FAMILY RUBIACEAE

A large cosmopolitan family ( i.e. found in most parts of the world, especially in the tropics. Many important plants belong to this family e.g. coffee probably a native of tropical Africa, whose seeds are known as coffee " beans ". The family takes its name from the genus, *Rubia*, one species of which was formerly cultivated to yield a scarlet dye obtained from the roots.

Black's Flora refers to 12 genera found in Sth. Aust. and Willis in his Handbook lists species from 8 genera in Vic. In the Ballarat area 5 genera are recorded, two of which contain species that are not native.

Plants in this family are herbs, shrubs or rarely trees. Leaves are entire, ~~entire~~ opposite, with large stipules almost like leaves. Flowers are small and are arranged more or less in cymes ( sometimes reduced to heads ). The flowers are usually bisexual or unisexual and may be monoecious or dioecious. Calyx ( when present ) and corolla are inserted at the summit of the receptacle. The calyx, when present, has a very short tube and 4-5 lobes. The corolla also has 4-5 lobes or segments. Stamens are as many as the corolla lobes, and are inserted in the tube and usually enclosed. The ovary is inferior, usually 2-celled with 1 or more ovules in each cell. The fruit is a capsule or a succulent drupe.

The genus *Asperula* ( " Woodruffs " ) and the genus *Galium* ( " Bedstraws " ) do not differ markedly and are found near Ballarat.



*Asperula conferta*

( Common Woodruff )

Flowers dioecious. calyx absent.

H. W.